

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action mailed on December 19, 2003. All objections and rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1-19 are in the case.

Claims 1, 8, 17, 18, and 19 were amended to better claim the invention.

At paragraphs 3-4 claims 1-7, 17, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's Admitted Prior Art as described on pages 1-4 of the Specification (hereinafter AAPA).

Applicant's claimed novel invention as set forth by claim 1 comprises, in part:

1. A method for pre-selecting disks coupled to a storage system, the method comprising the steps of:
 - obtaining, by a processor*, a set of system characteristics;
 - obtaining, by said processor*, a plurality of disk characteristics;
 - comparing, by said processor*, the system characteristics with the disk characteristics;
 - selecting, by said processor*, disks whose disk characteristics match the system characteristics *and displaying the selected disks in a GUI.*

Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) describes, at the present Specification at pages 1-4 a manual method of selecting a disk to couple to a storage system. Specifically, Applicant's Specification states, at page 3 line 19 through page 4 line 4:

“In a known system employing a manual approach to disk selection, a GUI option, screen is used to display user-selectable operations, for example the option to create a volume or to add a disk to a volume. The option screen may also show, a list of identifiers (Ids) of available disks in the spare pool and their size. The user can select one or more disks from the screen (e.g., by highlighting the selected disks in the list) in accordance with the requested “create” or “add” operation. The user makes the selection in this known system based on what the user knew of any required disk and volume characteristics since no such information is normally displayed on screen. Since the list of spares includes all disks (even those not “valid” for the requested operation, e.g., due to their size or checksum), the user might select an invalid disk. If the user selects a disk that is not valid and then attempts to initiate the resulting command, (by submitting the page to the filer via HTTP for processing by the storage operating system), an error message is generated and the command is not executed. Thus, the administrator or user must go through a trial and error process to be able to successfully add a disk to a volume. While suitable for the more sophisticated users, this manual approach manifests distinct disadvantages in ease of operation.”

From this quoted material from the present Specification, it is clear that a manual system is described by AAPA.

Applicant respectfully urges that Applicant's claimed invention makes use of *a processor* to automate the claimed steps.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges that the AAPA is legally precluded from anticipating the present invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102 because of the absence from the AAPA of any disclosure of Applicant's claimed use of a processor to perform the claimed steps.

At paragraphs 5-6 of the Office Action claims 8-16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA.

Further, at paragraph 6 of the Office Action (page 3 of the Office Action last two lines) the Examiner states:

"It would appear then that the invention is automating steps normally performed by a user, which is obvious."

Applicant respectfully urges that as set out in claim 1, as quoted hereinabove, *selecting, by said processor*, disks whose disk characteristics match the system characteristics *and displaying the selected disks in a GUI* is not a step performed in the description in the AAPA. That is, the AAPA is silent concerning a processor which both selects the disks and displays the selected disks in a GUI.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully urges that Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) is legally precluded from rendering the presently claimed invention obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) because of the absence from the AAPA of Applicant's claimed novel *selecting, by said processor, disks whose disk characteristics match the system characteristics and displaying the selected disks in a GUI.*

All independent claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are believed to be dependent from allowable independent claims, and therefore in condition for allowance.

Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Please charge any additional fee occasioned by this paper to our Deposit Account No. 03-1237.

Respectfully submitted,



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